

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image reading apparatus comprising:

a light source for emitting light which illuminates a photographic material;

an image sensor which reads an image recorded on the photographic material by dividing the image into a plurality of pixels and separating each of the plurality of pixels into a plurality of colors, and outputs data of the plurality of colors;

acquiring device for acquiring information representing a type of the photographic material; and

an optical filter device which is disposed between said light source and said image sensor and sets a color correction state of a color balance of transmitted light in accordance with the information representing the type of the photographic material so that outputs for the plurality of colors from said image sensor are substantially equal.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said optical filter device sets plural color correction states in accordance with a characteristic of the photographic material.

3. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the plural color correction states include a first color correction state corresponding to the photographic material which is one of a negative film or a sepia-tone film, and a second color correction state corresponding to the

002260-5097960

photographic material which is one of a positive film or a black-and-white film.

4. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said optical filter device includes plural types of optical filters, and each of the plural color correction states is set by using respective optical filters.

5. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said optical filter device includes plural types of optical filters, and a one color correction state among the plural color correction states is set by using a one optical filter among the plural types of optical filters and each of other color correction states is set by using the one optical filter and respective other optical filters among the plural types of optical filters in combination.

6. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said optical filter device includes plural types of optical filters and sets each of the plural color correction states by using plural optical filters among the plural types of optical filters in combination.

7. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said optical filter device is disposed between the photographic material and said image sensor and is disposed in the vicinity of said image sensor.

8. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said optical filter device is disposed between said light source and the photographic material.

9. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said acquiring device acquires the information representing the type of the photographic material based on one of information recorded on the photographic material and the results of reading of a non-exposed portion of the photographic material by said image sensor.

10. An image reading method in which a color balance of light incident on an image sensor, which reads an image recorded on a photographic material by dividing the image into a plurality of pixels and separating each of the plurality of pixels into a plurality of colors and outputs data of the plurality of colors, is adjusted in accordance with information representing a type of the photographic material so that outputs for the plurality of colors from said image sensor are substantially equal regardless of the type of the photographic material.

002260.5092960